

GLOBE CONTRAIL ID CHART

Short-lived

A contrail that forms and disappears as the plane moves along. Although its length remains about constant it may be very short, or it may span a large fraction of the sky. Generally it is very thin.



Persistent

A thin contrail that remains in the sky after the plane has disappeared. These contrails are not much wider than the short-lived contrails and are thinner than 1 finger held at arm's length.



Persistent Spreading

A thick contrail that remains in the sky after the plane has disappeared. They are wider than 1 finger held at arm's length. These contrails can grow to resemble natural cirrus clouds.

